

Message Text

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SUBJ: PORTUGUESE REACTION TO NIXON'S RESIGNATION
AND PRESIDENT FORD ASSUMING OFFICE.

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE PRESS LAUDS US INSTITUTIONS AND
FREE PRESS IN FORCING RESIGNATION OF COUNTRY'S LEADER.
SAYS PRESIDENT FORD MUST RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT.
NO OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE COMMENT ON EVENTS.

1. PORTUGUESE PRESS CONTINUED TO COMMENT ON EVENTS IN
U.S. OVER WEEKEND. RAUL REGO, EDITOR OF SOCIALIST
REPUBLICA, WROTE TWO EDITORIALS CALLING THE NIXON
RESIGNATION AN "UNQUESTIONABLE VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY;
BUT ALSO FOR THE POWER OF THE PRESS WHICH IS THE BASIC
GUARANTOR AGAINST CORRUPTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT
IN A COUNTRY." REGO CONTINUES, "THE WATERGATE CORRUPTION
WILL STAND OUT IN U.S. HISTORY BUT IT WILL STAND OUT AS
THE CLEAREST OF LESSONS OF THE VALUE OF LIBERTY OF PRESS
AND EXPRESSION. HOW MANY OTHER SIMILAR CASES HAVE
BEEN BURIED IN COUNTRIES WHERE PUBLIC OPINION HAS BEEN
CONSTANTLY MUZZLED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER?"

2. LEFTIST AFTERNOON DAILY DIARIO DE LISBOA QUOTES
SOCIALIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVE DR. APPIO SOTTOMAYOR
CARDIA AS SAYING "THE IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES OF IT
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(RESIGNATION) IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SPHERE MAY

NOT BE VERY SIGNIFICANT BUT THE VICTORY OF HONOR AND MORAL DIGNITY IS A DEMONSTRATION OF DEMOCRATIC RULE EVEN IN A COUNTRY SO CORRODED BY HYPER-CAPITALISM. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT DEMOCRACY IS SO FEARED BY THOSE WHO HAVE IRREGULAR ACCOUNTS TO PRESENT TO THE PEOPLE."

3. O SECULO IN A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL OF AUGUST 10 SAYS "GERALD FORD, 38TH PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. , ENTERS THE WHITE HOUSE AT AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT MOMENT IN WHICH THE TRAUMA SUFFERED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DUE TO WATERGATE HAS REDUCED PRATICALLY TO ZERO THE CREDIBILITY USUALLY ENJOYED BY THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERS, OBLIGATING HIM TO THE FIRST TASK OF REESTABLISHING CONFIDENCE OF PUBLIC OPINION." THE EDITORIAL LAUDS FORD'S REPUTATION FOR HONESTY AND SINCERITY AND PRAISES THE CHOICE OF DR. KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE AS A MOVE TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE AND TRANQUILITY IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

4. RESPECTED DIARIO DE NOTICIAS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR MANUEL RODRIGUES, WRITES THAT THE U.S. AFTER THE RESIGNATION OF NIXON IS A COUNTRY OF "NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION." HE PRAISES FORD'S RECORD FOR HONESTY AND SAYS THIS IS THE QUALITY MOST NEEDED AT THE PRESENT MOMENT IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE CREDIBILITY OF OF THE WHITE HOUSE FROM THE "DEVASTATION" OF THE WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL.

5. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC COMMENT FROM GOP OFFICIALS ON THE RESIGNATION.
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